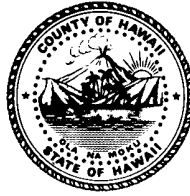


Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor

Lee E. Lord  
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## County of Hawai'i

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

### HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following matters to be considered by the Hāmākua Action Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 92-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022

**TIME:** 5:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Jack Wayne Union Hall  
45-3720 Honoka'a-Waipio Road  
Honoka'a, HI 96727

Please note there will not be a Zoom attendance option for this meeting.

### AGENDA

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### ROLL CALL

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Communication No. 2022-15: Update on the Waipi'o Valley Road Closure

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Written testimony may be submitted via email at [cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiiicounty.gov) or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior (Friday, September 16, 2022) to the meeting (see the Notice Section below). In addition, members of the public may provide oral testimony at the meeting on any of the agenda items. Comments may be made either during the public comment portion of the agenda or just prior to the relevant business item. With discretion of the Chair of the CDP Action Committee, comments may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Action Committee will consider the draft minutes for the May 17, 2022 meeting.

#### BUSINESS:

1. **Election of Action Committee Officers:** The Action Committee will nominate and elect a Chair to serve during the remainder of the 2022 calendar year and through the 2023 calendar year.
2. **Hāmākua Action Committee Implementation Projects:** Action Committee members will strategize on how they would like to proceed with ongoing or proposed implementation projects. Discussion may lead to the creation of an investigatory subcommittee and community liaison groups, as applicable. Joint initiatives with community members or partner organizations are encouraged.
3. **Action Committee Support Letter for the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and Breakwater:** The Action Committee will consider a draft letter of support for the repair of the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and Breakwater (Communication No. 2022-14). Committee Members will discuss and may take action to finalize and transmit the letter.

**AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:** Action Committee members will discuss logistics (meeting date/time) and potential agenda topics for the next meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/Weblink/1/fol/109367/Row1.aspx>. These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing [cdp@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiicounty.gov).

**NOTICE:** The purpose of the public hearings is to afford all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the above items. A person desiring to submit oral or written testimony shall indicate their name and whether the testimony is on their behalf or as a representative of an organization or individual. Written testimony can be submitted via email or hard copy. Hard copies should include an original and nine copies and be submitted no later than 4:30pm two days prior to the hearing date.

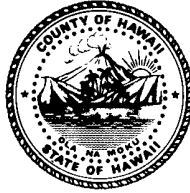
Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service, other reasonable modification, or language interpretation to access this meeting please contact the Planning Department at (808) 961-8288 as soon as possible, but no later than five working days prior to the meeting date, to arrange for accommodations. "Other reasonable modification" refers to communication methods or devices for people with disabilities who are mentally and/or physically challenged.

If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai'i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai'i County Code). A lobbyist means, "any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials." (Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai'i County Code). Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720.

HĀMĀKUA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor

Lee E. Lord  
Managing Director



Zendo Kern  
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### HĀMĀKUA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

#### Tuesday, May 17, 2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair McKnight called the Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:03 P.M. A quorum was established with five members in attendance. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and new provisions set by the Sunshine Law, this meeting was held via the Zoom interactive video platform with one on-site location at the Laupāhoehoe Train Museum.

#### ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Jeff McKnight (*Chair*); Niki Hubbard (*Vice-Chair*); Brad Kurokawa; Rob Nishimoto; Tawn Keeney

AC Members Absent-Excused: Rhonda Pollard; Carol Ignacio; Desiree Cruz; Crystal Kua

County Staff: Planners – Keiko Mercado, Heather Bartlett, Elyse Stevens, Kevin Sullivan

County Officials: Councilmember Heather Kimball, Jennifer Kagiwada (Legislative Assistant)

1 member of the public attended the meeting via Zoom. The meeting was also available for synchronous viewing via the [COH Planning Department YouTube Livestream](#). The livestream is available at [\(23\) Hāmākua CDP AC Meeting - May 17 - YouTube](#)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The November Hāmākua Action Committee meeting was moved to Thursday, November 17th. (Communication Number 2022-10)  
[Communication No. 2022-10 2022 Calendar.pdf \(hawaiicounty.gov\)](#) may be viewed here.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Hubbard noted that her name was spelled incorrectly in the March 15, 2022 minutes and requested that it be corrected to Nicolette.

*Vice-Chair Niki Hubbard made a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 minutes. Motion seconded by Committee Member Brad Kurokawa. Motion passed with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

27 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

28 One member of the public provided oral and written testimony:

29 Deborah Chang, representing herself, provided both written and oral testimony on agenda item  
30 3. She asked for the Action Committee's support in getting a site visit for Kahawai road and  
31 Lower Kalōpā road to establish them as public rights-of-way.

32 There was an overall discussion regarding the roads location. Legislative Assistant Jennifer  
33 Kagiwada stated she was sitting in for Councilmember Kimball and reiterated her sentiment for  
34 support on the issue at hand.

35 [Ms. Changs' written testimony \(Communication No. 2022-11\) may be viewed here.](#)

36 **BUSINESS:**

37 **1. Update on the Shoreline Setback Project:**

38 Mr. Sullivan screen shared a PowerPoint to discuss the islandwide Shoreline Pursuit Project  
39 based on integrated Coastal Zone Management HRS Chapter 205A, Federal Coastal Zone  
40 Management Act. He described the five phases of the project and the involved agencies  
41 such as the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH), the United States Geological Survey (USGS),  
42 FEMA, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
43 Administration (NOAA), and the Pacific Island Climate Adaptation Science Center (Pi-CASC).  
44 He explained that Phase 1 targeted the Hāmākua coastline and was comprised of helicopter  
45 flights for image collection and analysis. He summarized how the data collected helped to  
46 measure shoreline typology and classification, create time-series images of top-of-cliff  
47 delineations, identify coastal changes for inundation models, and calculate sea level rises,  
48 riparian buffers, and coastal setbacks. He stated how the applied data would help to analyze  
49 change rates within the Hāmākua shoreline to establish island-wide policy, future shoreline  
50 resilience, and hazard typology.

51 He explained that Phases 2 and 3, were focused on policy implementation to gauge coastal  
52 resilience and stated that the program would have a better policy baseline understanding  
53 within the next few months.

54 Phases 4 and 5 were a continuation of Phase 1 for island-wide data collection that included  
55 additional survey areas with current and potential developments. He explained that these  
56 phases would examine coastline changes and briefly discussed the project timeline for the  
57 end of the year.

58 Committee Member Kurokawa expressed the need to protect riparian corridors. He was  
59 hopeful for future funding for island-wide data collection and policy implementation due to  
60 the potential for disasters and property damage within the Hāmākua coastline.

61 Mr. Sullivan discussed the need for ecological and cultural protection along the Hāmākua  
62 coastline. He recognized the issue with over clearing and grading of parcels and the need to  
63 coordinate with the Department of Public Works. He expressed the potential restoration of  
64 coastal species and a broad framework with specific shoreline setback regulations for Hawai'i  
65 Island. He would have a better understanding of how the data could direct policy toward the  
66 end of 2022 and would follow up with the Action Committee.

Committee Member Kurokawa discussed ecological and conservative approaches to protect specific agricultural areas. He mentioned existing development pressure and funding as current issues. He discussed the disregard for maintenance and preservation of drainage berms by new developments. He also reiterated that future community outreach for the Shoreline Setback Project could involve continued conservation efforts.

Committee Member Nishimoto praised Mr. Sullivan's efforts and encouraged him to update the Action Committee on the projects' progress.

## **2. CIP Budget Overview:**

Staff shared the FY2022-23 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget spreadsheet that outlined capital project appropriations submitted to the County Council relating to the Hāmākua District. Ms. Mercado stated that the listed projects ranged from being directly related to the Hāmākua District to broader island-wide benefits. She offered to provide Financial Impact Statement (FIS) sheets for specific projects should the Hāmākua Action Committee be interested.

Vice-Chair Hubbard had questions regarding testimony for the County Council CIP budget meetings. Councilmember Kimball stated that the Thursday, May 19 budget meeting would allow for public testimony.

Chair McKnight asked how proposed projects were considered. Councilmember Kimball stated projects were accepted as a package based on each Department's needs. She elaborated that priorities are added every year and the projects on the current list were newly proposed. She discussed the District 1 projects currently in progress, such as the Laupāhoehoe Road and Boat Ramp, and bridge repairs. Ms. Mercado clarified that CIP projects remain in the budget and then are reappropriated as needed.

Committee Member Kurokawa discussed bridge repair concerns, specifically asking if Ka'ahakini Stream Bridge was included in the CIP budget. Councilmember Kimball confirmed that bridge repair is accounted for from previous CIP appropriations. She also confirmed new funding for the Papa'aloa Gym replacement (State allocated 5 million with the County to match funds), and Waipi'o Valley road safety improvements.

[Communication No. 2022-12 May CIP FY2022-23 \(Hamakua\) Final.v2.pdf \(hawaiicounty.gov\)](#) may be viewed here.

## **3. Infrastructure Discussion:**

Ms. Mercado explained that the upcoming Federal Infrastructure Bill funding would be allocated to the State and County. To prepare for this, the Administration created a task force to identify priority projects. The Planning Director requested that the Action Committee discuss infrastructure project ideas for their district. Planning Staff would then record the projects identified and provide them to the Director.

Vice-Chair Hubbard suggested the Laupāhoehoe Boat ramp, road and bridge needed Federal assistance. Committee Member Kurokawa suggested alternative routes and connectivity for emergency purposes. Chair McKnight proposed the need for adequate emergency shelters to prepare for potential hurricane disasters and climate change impacts. Committee Member Kurokawa brought up the Hakalau School and Gym which is in dire need of repair.

He discussed the need to coordinate with the Department of Education and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transition the structures into community emergency shelters. Councilmember Kimball stated that these projects can be “shovel worthy”, and do not necessarily need to be “shovel ready.” She suggested the Action Committee identify projects that “just make sense.”

Vice-Chair Hubbard proposed that the Waipi’o access be added to the list. She noted that though everyone was aware of the existing issue, it was still a significant project to highlight.

Ms. Mercado suggested that AC Members discuss projects and priorities within their community networks. She requested that all proposed infrastructure projects be submitted by the end of May and that Planning Staff would follow up with Action Committee members as needed.

#### **4. Action Committee Community Project Discussion:**

The Action Committee continued their discussion to identify community action initiatives for 2022 and explore mutual interests between Action Committee members to potentially create investigatory subcommittees and community liaison groups.

Ms. Mercado screen shared action items from the Hāmākua CDP Implementation Table. She noted common areas within the table with more than 2 people could provide the opportunity to create an investigatory subcommittee. She offered that Planning Staff could provide the necessary resources and connections that may support the Action Committee with their initiatives.

Vice-Chair Hubbard hoped for the formation of an investigatory subcommittee for public access and trails. She shared however that she would not be able to commit her time to the project.

Ms. Mercado gave an example of an investigatory subcommittee within the Action Committee and reiterated the idea for AC members to work outside of regularly scheduled meetings. She suggested the collaboration between Committee Member Keeney and Community Member Chang regarding the Lower Kalōpā Road could potentially become an investigatory subcommittee if more AC Members were interested.

Committee Member Keeney stated that he and Community Member Chang would collaborate and asked if anyone else were interested in the Lower Kalōpā Road Trail Project. Community Member Chang discussed the need for a site visit to occur. She explained that relying on maps alone was deceiving, in that what you see on-site could include overgrowth or other barriers. She added that permission would be needed for any on-site visit due to privately owned lands and blocked access. There was a brief discussion about ownership of the subject roads. Ms. Mercado offered to connect the liaison group with Long Range Planner, Kamuela Plunkett to assist with the conversation about public access.

Ms. Mercado confirmed that no investigatory subcommittee has been established for the Lower Kalōpā Trail Road, but one could potentially be formed in the future.

Vice-Chair Hubbard updated the Action Committee about the Papa’aloe Gym. She explained that the State allocated 5 million in the budget, and the County would match the funds. She

added that the County released a needs assessment survey to assess how the community may want to move forward on the project (link below). They hoped to hold public meetings in the near future regarding the construction of the new gym.

Vice-Chair Hubbard also shared information about Vibrant Hawai'i, which is a growing community organization that is committed to collective action for affordable housing. She mentioned that the organization is currently looking for writers.

[You may find the Pāpa'aloa Needs Assessment here.](#)

[You may find the Vibrant Hawai'i Website here.](#)

Chair McKnight updated the Action Committee relative to the Emergency Preparedness working group. He previously donated a repeater and two-way radio system to the Department of Civil Defense. He discussed obtaining an FCC license and antennae system for future emergency implementation.

Committee Member Keeney discussed Senate Bill No. 2070 which granted a 50 million Special Purpose Revenue Bond to the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. He stated that the main objective was to reforest the Kona Coast and how the initiative had already accomplished up to 73 acres in reforestation. He claimed he was unsure how the new funding would impact the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative but believed it could pave the way for other community groups. He proposed potential discussions between the Action Committee and the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative in the future.

[You may find Senate Bill 2070 \(SD1\) here.](#)

Councilmember Kimball highlighted a two-day community meeting on Friday, June 10 (2pm-6pm) and Saturday, 11 (10am-1pm) at the Jack Wayne ILWU Union Hall in Honoka'a regarding Waipi'o Valley public access. She encouraged the Action Committee to participate and to share the information within the community.

Ms. Mercado suggested creating a Google Document for the Action Committee to access and update with projects and priorities. She suggested the Action Committee email Planning Staff with any suggestions for the Joint Action Committee meeting agenda. She proposed that Planning Staff would also provide a link to a PowerPoint presentation staff did that outlines how Action Committee can initiate self-run meetings.

Chair McKnight asked the Action Committee to think about other locations for future meetings within the Hāmākua district, preferably with Wi-Fi connectivity, and to send suggestions to Planning Staff.

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Committee Member Keeney moved to adjourn. Seconded by Committee Member Kurokawa. The motion passes with 5 votes aye, 0 votes nay.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

This agenda and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Hāmākua Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i Public](#)

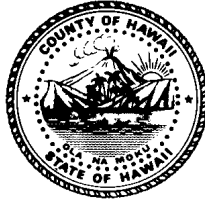
186 [Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department  
187 by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing [cdp@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cdp@hawaiicounty.gov).

DRAFT

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September 20, 2022

County of Hawai'i  
Director Maurice Messina  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
101 Pauahi St. Suite 6  
Hilo, HI 96720

Cc: Councilmember Heather Kimball

Dear Director Maurice Messina:

The Hāmākua Community Development Plan (HCDP) Action Committee (AC) is writing in support of repairing and maintaining the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and Breakwater.

The HCDP acknowledges that there are infrastructure challenges in Hāmākua, particularly due to our long and remote coastline. The Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp area is cited as a resource for the Hāmākua community, which should be utilized and maintained because of its importance in providing access and resources along the coast. The HCDP's values and vision statement clearly support this, stating: "We, the residents of Hāmākua recognize that the foundation of our life, livelihood, and well-being comes from the 'āina-the land, the seas...As active stewards, we mālama the 'āina as the source of sustenance for ourselves, and future generations." As volunteer stewards of the land and sea, the Hāmākua community needs government assistance in the maintenance and repair of this integral facility.

The June 16, 2022, U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report on Coastal Navigation explicitly describes how preference is given to larger economic centers when considering repair and maintenance projects. Developing facilities for large economic gain is not a sustainable policy for Hāmākua and for Hawai'i Island in general. The COVID-19 pandemic placed sustainability and local resources at the forefront for a viable economy. Having small harbors that allow local fisherman to access fisheries for local economic development and subsistence practices is desirable.

The same GAO Report also considered how an inoperable boat ramp remains a risk for stakeholders:

*Local community members and Corps officials stated that this project serves as a "lifeline" to several communities with district cultures. Specifically, Laupāhoehoe Harbor is the only ocean*

*access for boats on the Hāmākua Coast, which is served by a single highway, raising the risk of isolation of the community from major population centers, medical services, and supplies should the highway be inaccessible. As a result, an operating boat launch ramp would provide another method to get resources to the community or to evacuate community members in the event of an emergency.*

In terms of providing access, Section 5.9 of the HCDP, *Improve Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation* is another example of how the ramp is an invaluable asset to our community. The area should be a focal point for disaster preparedness, as an access point for communities cut off from roads due to bridge failure or landslides. We note this is not a hypothetical scenario. Currently, two of our highway bridges are weight restricted and all traffic has been re-routed off the Hāmākua coast. It is logical for our community to anticipate needing the ramp/breakwater for emergency assistance.

In addition, Section 4.2.6, Community Action 4 of the HCDP encourages the development of a hui of fisherman on the Hāmākua coast. On Sunday June 12, 2022, that fisherman community was invited to voice their support for the repair and maintenance of the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and breakwater. That meeting was facilitated by Councilmember Heather Kimball with your attendance and support. Approximately 75 people attended and voiced their concerns.

Lastly, the Laupāhoehoe ramp, with a functioning breakwater, can provide another option for community recreation. Per Section 5.13 of the HCDP, *Expand Parks and Recreation*, communities surrounding Laupāhoehoe may use the Laupāhoehoe Point Beach Park extensively for family time, socialization, and enjoyment. The ramp and breakwater area is a popular place to gather, and it needs to be safe. The Action Committee acknowledges budget restrictions, but we want to emphasize that the area is beneficial to the health and well-being of our community and deserves the required repair and maintenance to function properly.

For all these reasons combined, the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and breakwater is considered a top capital improvement priority of our Community Development Plan. Thank you for considering how central and significant the Laupāhoehoe Boat Ramp and breakwater is to our Hāmākua community. We look forward to the ramp and breakwater functioning properly in the near future.

Sincerely,

Hāmākua CDP Action Committee  
Nicolette Hubbard, HCDP AC Vice Chair

Brad Kurokawa  
Carol Ignacio  
Desiree Moana Cruz

Director Maurice Messina, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
September 20, 2022  
Page 2

Rhonda Pollard  
Crystal Kua  
Robert Nishimoto  
Tawn Keeney

DRAFT